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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington, D.C. 20250 (202) 720-4330

Letter No. 2588

December 11, 1992

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION -- Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan lead the U.S. delegation at the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) held December 5-11, 1992. The ICN is the first global conference on nutrition, and is sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization, two agencies of the United Nations. Madigan announced that the United States will provide \$32 million in additional food aid to victims of food shortages in sub-Saharan Africa. The aid is being donated from stocks of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation through the World Food Program, and will provide approximately 93,000 metric tons of U.S. corn for use in Somalia, Kenya and other African countries. Madigan called on developed nations to lead the battle against world hunger and malnutrition. "First among them must be a continued commitment to a successful end of the GATT talks," Madigan said. Madigan also called on the world's nations to address the problem of micronutrient deficiencies, which lead to numerous diseases. Madigan also announced a new effort by the U.S. to attack micronutrient deficiency through a \$50 million program by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Contact: Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623.

RECORD CITRUS PRODUCTION LOWERS PRICES -- The 1992/93 U.S. citrus crop is expected to be the largest in 13 years, providing ample fruit supplies and lower prices. Florida citrus output is forecast to increase 31 percent due to favorable weather and a larger number of trees. World orange juice production will rise significantly this season as Florida's orange crop is forecast up 33 percent, and increased supplies will lower prices of processing oranges and orange juice. Florida grapefruit and California and Arizona lemon crops are forecast up significantly, while Florida's lime crop is forecast down 16 percent because of damage from Hurricane Andrew. However, increased imports of Mexican limes will dampen price hikes. Contact: Diane Bertelsen (202) 219-0884.

FIRE ANT QUARANTINE -- USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced that it is simplifying and updating its quarantine and interstate movement regulations to control the spread of imported fire ants. The imported fire ant came to the U.S. from South America in 1918 and has spread to an area stretching from southern North Carolina to central Texas. The quarantine is in effect because evidence shows that the imported fire ant could thrive in other areas of the country. The quarantine is the only preventive method because no effective chemical controls have been ruled environmentally safe. Contact: Kim Taylor (301) 436-5268.

TOBACCO IMPORTS INCREASE -- U.S. unmanufactured tobacco imports for consumption, duty paid, for January-September 1992 increased 78 percent in volume and 99 percent in value. The primary reason for this surge is the U.S. granting duty-free access for oriental type tobacco. Contact: Dan Stevens (202) 720-9493.

KENYA'S FORESTS IN TROUBLE -- Kenya's timber industry stands to lose \$8 billion in timber products if a way to stop the cypress aphid is not found soon. The pest is threatening cypress and cedar trees in industrial plantations and woodlots, as well as shade trees and hedges on farms and towns throughout the country. Kenya trees produce building-wood products, fuelwood, charcoal, pulp and paper. The cypress aphid gives birth to live young that grow to be adults in six days. Entomologists from USDA's Forest Service have been to Kenya exploring a variety of ways to manage the aphids, as well as trying to discover natural enemies to control the aphid. Contact: Linda Feldman (202) 205-1668.

INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS CHANGE -- USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service will no longer require the reporting of information on the individual components of broken corn, broken kernels and foreign material on official grade certificates for non-export corn and sorghum inspections. Studies show that the market does not use the information to merchandise grain. However, the information will continue to be available upon request. This change will become effective December 31, 1992. Contact: Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091.

PROPOSAL FOR GYPSY MOTH REGULATIONS -- USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing to revise its gypsy moth regulations to help prevent further spread of the pest. The revisions will allow USDA to regulate the movement of Christmas trees and other trees without roots. The proposal also adds further restrictions on the interstate movement of outdoor household articles. Comments will be accepted on or before February 2, 1993. Contact: Sue Wilkinson (301) 436-4892.

SWEETPOTATOES WARD OFF WEEDS -- Researchers with USDA's Agricultural Research Service have discovered that planting sweetpotato plants with yellow nutsedge and certain other weeds will reduce the growth of the weeds. Yellow nutsedge is a perennial that causes problems primarily in vegetable crops, including snapbeans, onions, sweet corn and tomatoes. After 12 weeks of growth, the presence of sweetpotatoes caused a 50 percent reduction in yellow nutsedge growth. Contact: Howard Harrison (803) 556-0840.

WINTER VEGETABLE PRICES -- Hurricane Andrew created little or no direct impact on national vegetable prices. The key to winter prices for warm-season vegetables is production in Florida and imports from Mexico. Contact: Gary Lucier (202) 219-0884.

RADIO POSTCARD -- A postcard will be included with USDA radio's weekly cassette of January 5, 1993. We ask that broadcasters receiving the cassette service look for the postage-paid postcard included in the weekly cassette envelope, fill it out and return it to us. Your prompt response will help us update our mailing list of broadcasters who want to continue receiving the weekly cassette service.

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1853 -- Maria Bynum travels to Louisiana to take you on a tour of an alligator farm complete with swamps and bayous. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME #1335 -- Video/audio clubs; eating trends in the 90's; more wine in restaurants; the ups and downs of mushrooms; and new age supermarkets. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1844 -- USDA news highlights; dairy outlook; the rural poor; catfish outlook; and today's urban farmer. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1550 -- Vitamin E and aging; gastric atrophy; choosing the right stuff; alcohol and bone loss; and body composition and the seasons. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Friday, December 18, cattle on feed, U.S. ag outlook; Monday, December 21, U.S. ag trade update, catfish report; Tuesday, December 22, weekly weather and crop outlook, poultry production, world coffee situation; Wednesday, December 23, livestock/poultry update, Santa Claus weather forecast. These are the **USDA reports we know about in advance**. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling.

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359.
Material changed at 5 p.m., ET, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

FEATURES -- Chris Larson reports on USDA efforts to clean up Dade County, Florida after Hurricane Andrew; Deboria Janifer reports on holiday weight control; Will Pemble reports on seven new holly varieties developed by USDA; and Pat O'Leary reports on USDA's women, infants and children program.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA chief meteorologist Norton Strommen updates U.S. crop and weather conditions; USDA Acting Assistant Secretary Ann Chadwick on the W.I.C program; USDA economist Gary Lucier on vegetable production; USDA economist Bob McElroy on farm income; and USDA economist Ralph Parlett on food prices. (Also B-roll of Capitol Christmas tree lighting from 12/9/92.)

UPCOMING FEATURES -- Lynn Wyvill reports on holiday food buffet safety; Deboria Janifer reports on USDA's Yearbook of Agriculture; and Pat O'Leary reports on the decline of U.S. farm numbers.

EVERY OTHER WEEK -- Agriculture Update with anchors Eric Parsons and Lori Spiczka. Five minutes of USDA farm program information in news desk format with B-roll.

Available on Satellite Galaxy 6, channel 23, audio 6.2 or 6.8, downlink frequency 4160 MHz.: Thursdays from 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., ET, Saturdays from 10 - 10:30 a.m., ET, and Mondays from 8 - 8:30 a.m., ET.

OFFMIKE

EQUIPMENT SALES...have been down. The big items are moving slowly, says **Jeff Wheeler** (KBOA/KTMO, Kennett, MO). Dealers report that service work has increased. Jeff says this year's large crops could provide the incentive for new equipment purchases. Cotton yields were high, Jeff says, with some producers getting two and-a-half bales per acre.

FARM SHOW DISPLAY SPACE...is selling like hot cakes, says **Judy Stratman** (WNAX, Yankton, SD). The Vermillion Farm Show, in Vermillion, SD, and the Downtown Sioux City Farm Show, are growing larger each year and attendance is expected to be higher than previous years. That reflects the producer's positive attitude that Judy has noticed during her speeches at co-op meetings.

SOYBEAN AND CORN CROPS...set record yields, says **John Winfield** (Mississippi Network, Jackson). The cotton crop had the best quality in several years. John says the issues of concern at producer meetings this year will be wetlands and environmental regulations.

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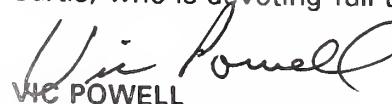
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CONGRATULATIONS...to the 1993 officers of NAFB: president, **Ken Tanner** (WRAL/Tobacco Radio Network, Raleigh, NC); president-elect **Curt Lancaster** (VSA Network, San Angelo, TX); vice president, **Joe Cornely** (WRFD, Columbus, OH); historian, **Art Sechrest** (WJBC, Bloomington, IL). ...to regional vice presidents: Northeast, **Pat Driscoll** (Michigan Farm Radio Network, Lansing, MI); Southeast, **Gary Cooper** (Southeast Agrinet, Ocala, FL); North Central, **Don Wick** (KWOA, Worthington, MN); South Central, **Stewart Doan** (ARN Agriculture, Little Rock, AR); and West, **Rick Haines** (Northern Ag Network, Billings, MT). ...to CHATS editor **Von Ketelsen** (KOEL, Oelwein, IA); associates chairman, **Bill Sanders** (KICD, Spencer, IA); and parliamentarian **Gary Wergin** (KFEQ, St. Joseph, MO).

CONGRATULATIONS...to Patrick O'Leary, the new deputy chief of USDA-R&TV. Pat replaces Brenda Curtis, who is devoting full-time to radio production.


W.C. POWELL
Chief, Radio & TV Division